

-2-

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of providing a user-desired word into a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) having the computer select a character in an alphabetical range;
- (b) having the computer select a word as a function of the selected character, the selected word having a character sequence;
- (c) presenting the word to the user;
- (d) receiving an indication from the user indicating whether a user-desired character of the desired word is alphabetically preceding or succeeding the computer-selected character or whether the computer-selected character matches the user-desired character; and
- (e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the computer-selected character based on the user's indication.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if step (d) includes receiving the indication that the user-desired character is alphabetically preceding or alphabetically succeeding the computer-selected character, step (e) comprises adjusting the range of characters so that the range of characters is approximately bounded by the selected character.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if step (d) includes receiving an indication that the computer-selected character is the user-desired character, step (e) comprises retaining the computer-selected character, and further comprising step (f) of advancing to the next character of the character sequence, if any.

-3-

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, and further comprising step (g) of receiving an indication to accept a set of characters.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein step (g) includes receiving an indication to remove at least one character from the set of retained characters.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) includes having the computer select the character as a function of a probability of the character in the range of characters.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) includes having the computer select the word as a function of a probability of the word.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, and further comprising successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d), wherein when repeating step (a), the computer selects the character as a function of the adjusted range of characters for each succession.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d) occurs when a new word cannot be selected in step (b).

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein when repeating step (a) the computer selects the character as a function of a set of retained characters.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) includes having the computer select the character as a function of an N-gram model.

-4-

12-17. canceled

18. (previously presented) A computing device comprising:
- an input device;
 - an output device;
 - memory storing a lexicon;
 - a processor accessing the memory; and
 - a module including instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:
 - selecting a character in a range of characters arranged in alphabetical order;
 - selecting a word from the lexicon as a function of the selected character, the word having a character sequence;
 - presenting the word to the user through the output device; and
 - receiving an indication in response to the presented word from the user through the input device pertaining to the selected character to indicate whether the selected character matches or fails to match a user-desired character.
19. (original) The computing device of claim 18 wherein the input device comprises isolated buttons indicative of different responses.
20. (original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein at least some of the buttons are indicative of a subset of the alphabet.
21. (original) The computing device of claim 20 wherein the computing device comprises a telephone.

-5-

22. (original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein the computing device comprises a pager.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) or step (b) are based on probability of words in a lexicon.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, and further comprising repeating steps (a) to (e) using the adjusted alphabetical range.

25. (previously presented) The computer input device of claim 18, and further comprising instructions for adjusting the range of characters when the user indicates that the selected character is not the user-desired character.

26. (previously presented) The computer input device of claim 18, and further comprising advancing to the next character in the character sequence when the user indicates that the selected character is the user-desired character.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including computer-executable instructions to perform the steps of:

- (a) selecting a character in an alphabetical range of characters;
- (b) selecting a word based on the selected character;
- (c) rendering the selected word, the word having a character sequence;
- (b) receiving an indication from a user interface in response to the selected word, the indication indicating whether a user-desired character is alphabetically preceding or succeeding the selected character or whether the computer-selected character matches the user-desired

-6-

~~character pertaining to the computer-selected character;~~
and

- (e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the selected character based on the user's indication.

28. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is not the user's desired character or matches the user's desired character.

29. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, and further comprising identifying a new alphabetical range approximately bounded by the previously selected character.

30. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is the user's desired character, and further comprising advancing to the next character, if any, of the selected word's character sequence.

31. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, and further comprising receiving an indication that the next character is not part of the user's desired word.